



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 03-4084

Released: December 23, 2003

**PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED FOR COMMENTS
ON QWEST'S PETITION FOR FORBEARANCE
FROM APPLICATION OF SECTION 271**

WC Docket No. 03-260

Comments Date: January 20, 2004

Reply Comments Date: January 30, 2004

On December 18, 2003, Qwest Communications International Inc. (Qwest) filed a petition pursuant to section 10 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹ requesting that the Commission forbear from imposing an independent unbundling obligation pursuant to section 271(c)(2)(B) of the Act with respect to narrowband and broadband network elements that no longer are required to be unbundled pursuant to section 251(d)(2) of the Act.² In its Petition, Qwest argues that the establishment of a stand-alone section 271 unbundling obligation is contrary to the purposes and provisions of the Act as well as recent court decisions that have limited the scope of unbundling.³ Qwest further argues that establishing an independent and ongoing unbundling obligation under section 271 with respect to broadband elements would impose substantial operating and financial burdens on all Bell Operating Companies, including Qwest.⁴

This Public Notice establishes certain procedural requirements relating to consideration of Qwest's Petition. This matter shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules. See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200, 1.1206. Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 160 *et seq.*

² *Qwest Communications International Inc. Petition for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. 160(c)*, WC Docket No. 03-260 (filed Dec. 18, 2003) (Qwest Petition or Petition).

³ Qwest Petition at 3-14.

⁴ Qwest Petition at 14-15.

must contain summaries of the substance of the presentations and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented generally is required. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b). Other rules pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations in permit-but-disclose proceedings are set forth in Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

Pursuant to Section 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on Qwest's Petition on or before **January 20, 2004** and reply comments on or before **January 30, 2004**. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Suite TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. Two (2) courtesy copies must be delivered to Janice M. Myles, Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, 445 12th Street, SW, Suite 5-C327, Washington, DC 20554, or via e-mail janice.myles@fcc.gov; and one (1) copy must be sent to Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See* Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 Fed. Reg. 24121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

- Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building.

- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Filings and comments are also available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC, 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Pamela Arluk, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-1580, or via e-mail pamela.arluk@fcc.gov.

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